

RENDEZ-VOUS AT COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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Art, story and cover: Kokopello

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European Quarter, Strasbourg.



YES, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY MY BADGE ISN'T WORKING. I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT AT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE.

HAHA THAT'S WHY! THIS IS THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT!



FRIJA, FROM FINLAND.

I'M JAN, FROM BELGIUM.

COME WITH ME, I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND.



I'M A BIT NERVOUS ABOUT MY FIRST DAY. PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY EUROPE IS COMPLICATED...



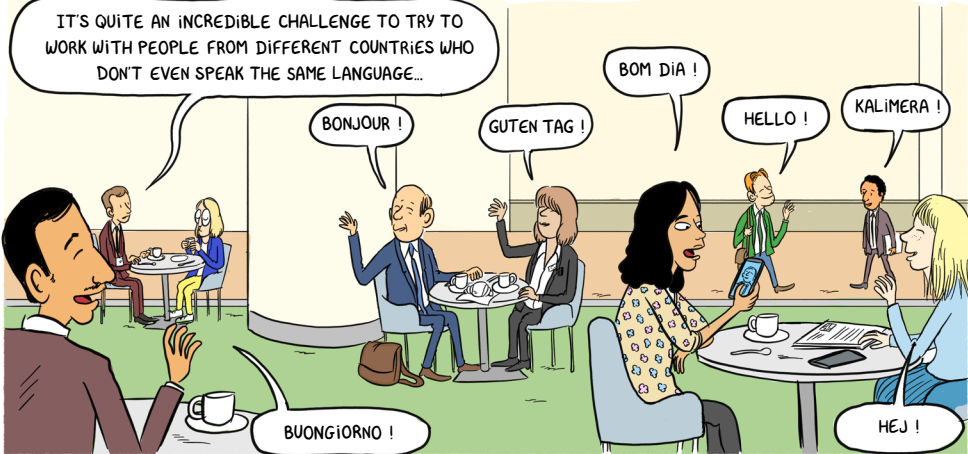
IT'S NOT THAT COMPLICATED, YOU'LL SEE.

AN ITALIAN COFFEE TO START?



OR A GREEK ONE? BUT I MUST WARN YOU, IT WILL BE STRONGER.

IT'S QUITE AN INCREDIBLE CHALLENGE TO TRY TO WORK WITH PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES WHO DON'T EVEN SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE...



BONJOUR !

GUTEN TAG !

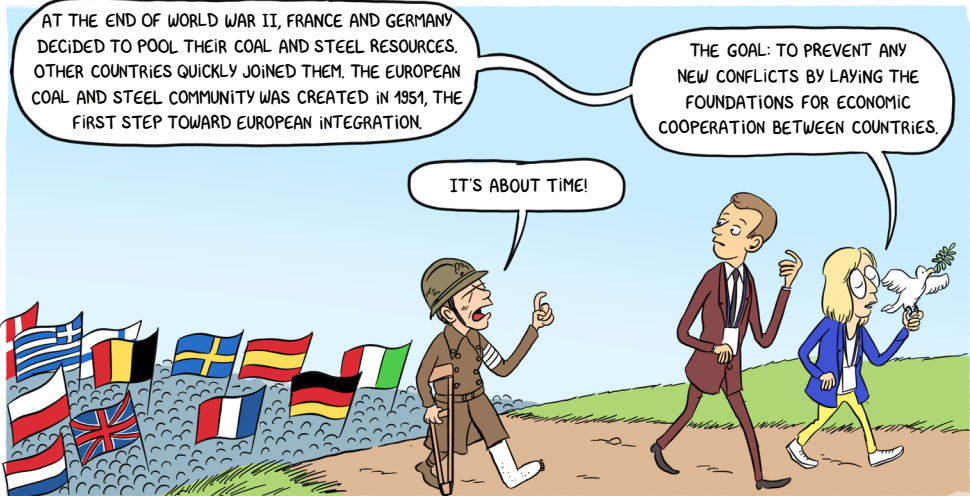
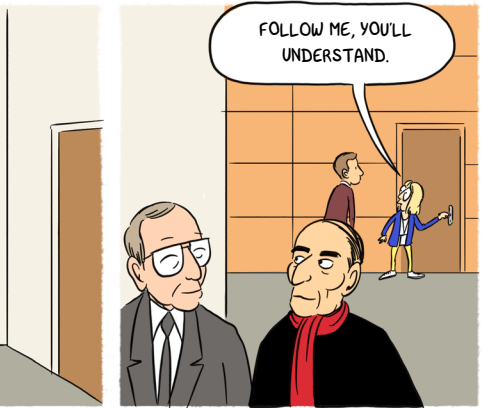
BOM DIA !

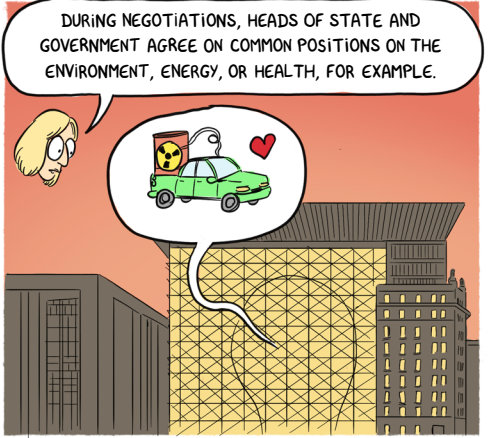
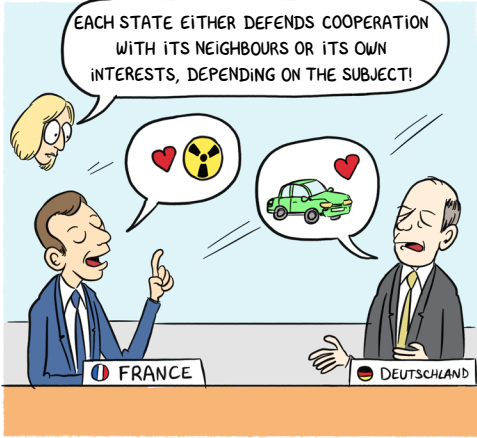
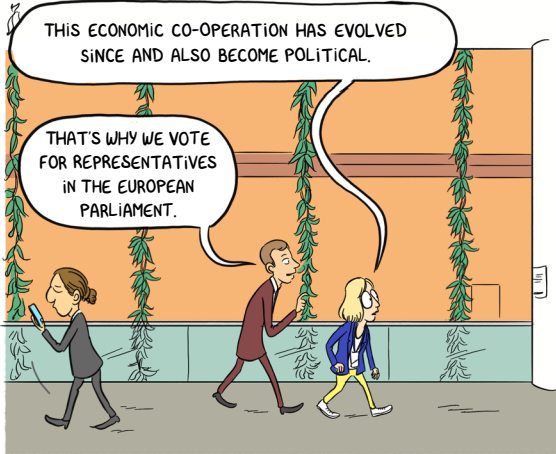
HELLO !

KALIMERA !

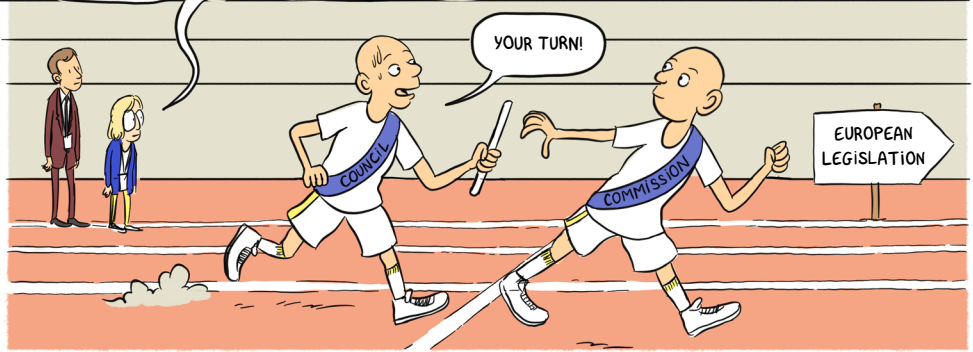
BUONGIORNO !

HEJ !

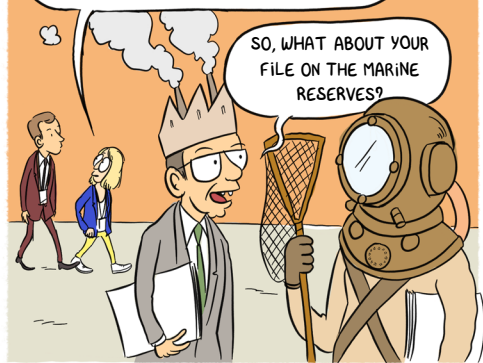




THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION THEN TAKES OVER. IT BRINGS TOGETHER 27 COMMISSIONERS, ONE PER COUNTRY, AS WELL AS NUMEROUS CIVIL SERVANTS FROM ALL MEMBER STATES.



EVERY COMMISSIONER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A SPECIFIC AREA RANGING FROM INDUSTRY TO FISHERIES AND OCEANS.



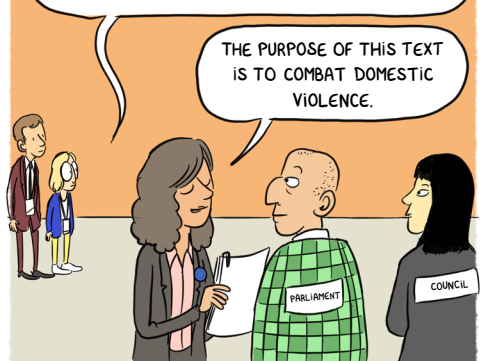
THERE IS EVEN A COMMISSIONER FOR ANIMAL WELFARE.

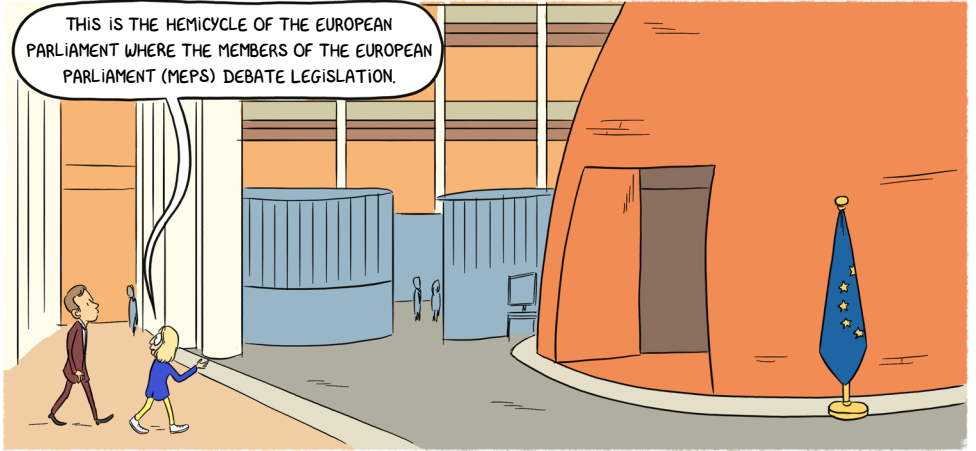


THE COMMISSION ENSURES EUROPEAN LAWS ARE PROPERLY ENFORCED.



THE COMMISSION IS ALSO THE ONE WHO PROPOSES LEGISLATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.



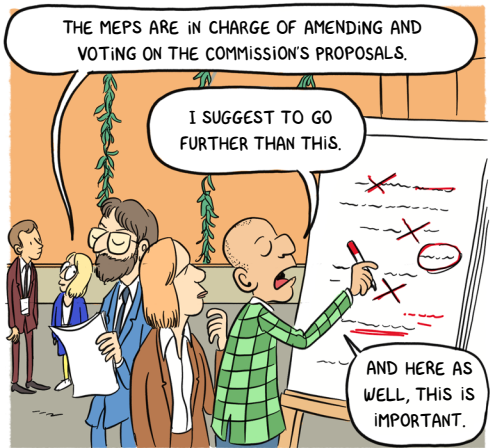


THIS IS THE HEMICYCLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WHERE THE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (MEPS) DEBATE LEGISLATION.



THIS IS WHERE ALL 720 MEPS WHO ARE DIRECTLY ELECTED GATHER!

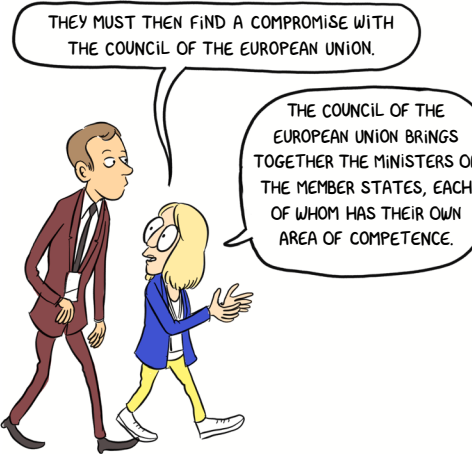
THE COMMISSION IS PROPOSING A NEW TEXT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.



THE MEPS ARE IN CHARGE OF AMENDING AND VOTING ON THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS.

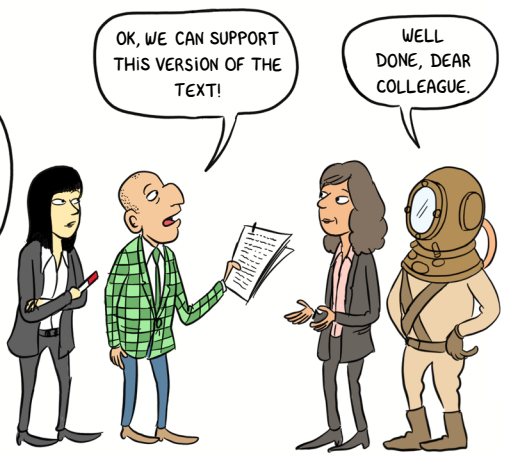
I SUGGEST TO GO FURTHER THAN THIS.

AND HERE AS WELL, THIS IS IMPORTANT.



THEY MUST THEN FIND A COMPROMISE WITH THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION BRINGS TOGETHER THE MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES, EACH OF WHOM HAS THEIR OWN AREA OF COMPETENCE.



OK, WE CAN SUPPORT THIS VERSION OF THE TEXT!

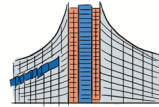
WELL DONE, DEAR COLLEAGUE.

THESE INSTITUTIONS IS WHAT WE CALL THE LEGISLATIVE TRIANGLE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.



EUROPEAN COUNCIL
(27 heads of state and government)

Defines the overall political direction for the EU.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
(27 Commissioners) oversees EU policies and the allocation of the EU budget.

May censor the Commission, elects its President, and approves the appointment of Commissioners.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(ministers of the 27 Member States, depending on their area of competence) adopts laws together with the European Parliament.

Agree on legislative texts and vote on the majority of EU laws.

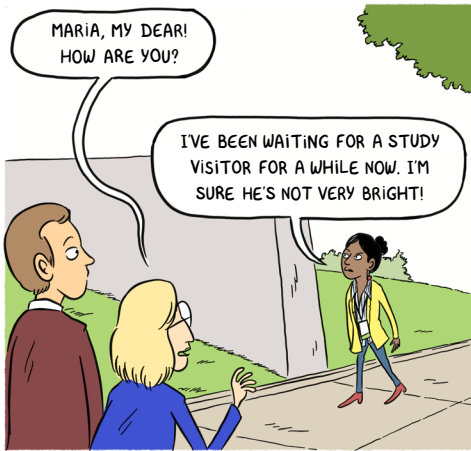
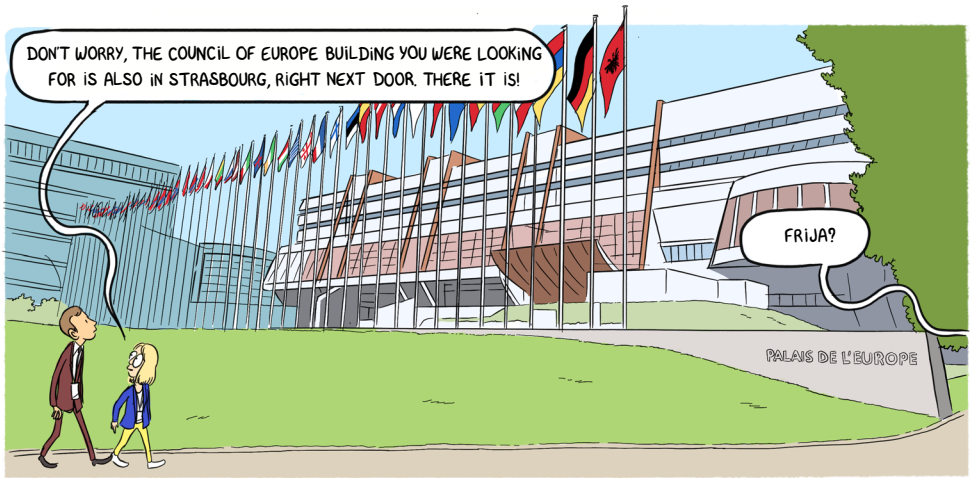


EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
(720 MEPs) Amends and votes on the Commission's proposals and on the EU budget.

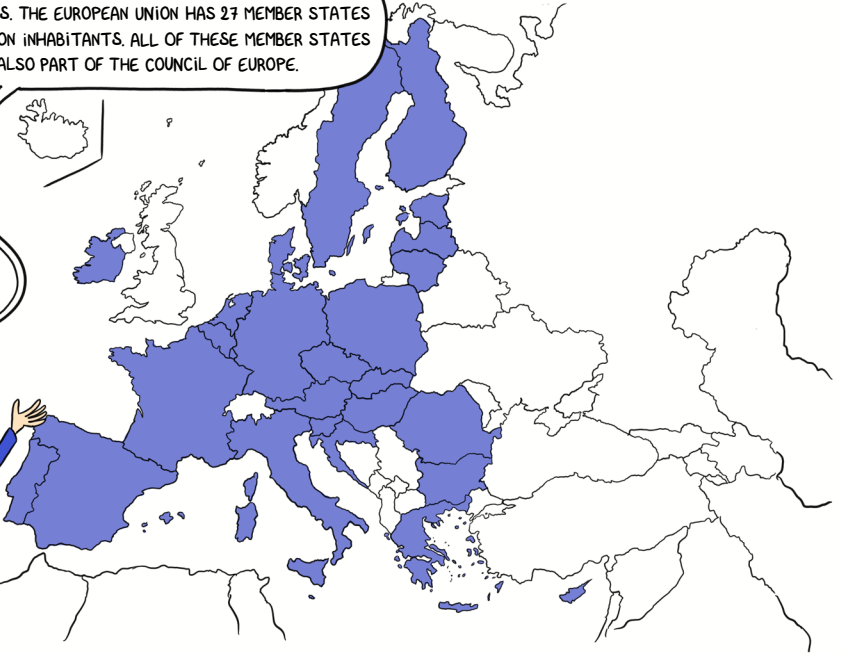


I UNDERSTAND BETTER NOW, FRIJA... BUT WE STILL HAVEN'T SEEN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, AND I'M REALLY GOING TO BE LATE FOR MY APPOINTMENT...

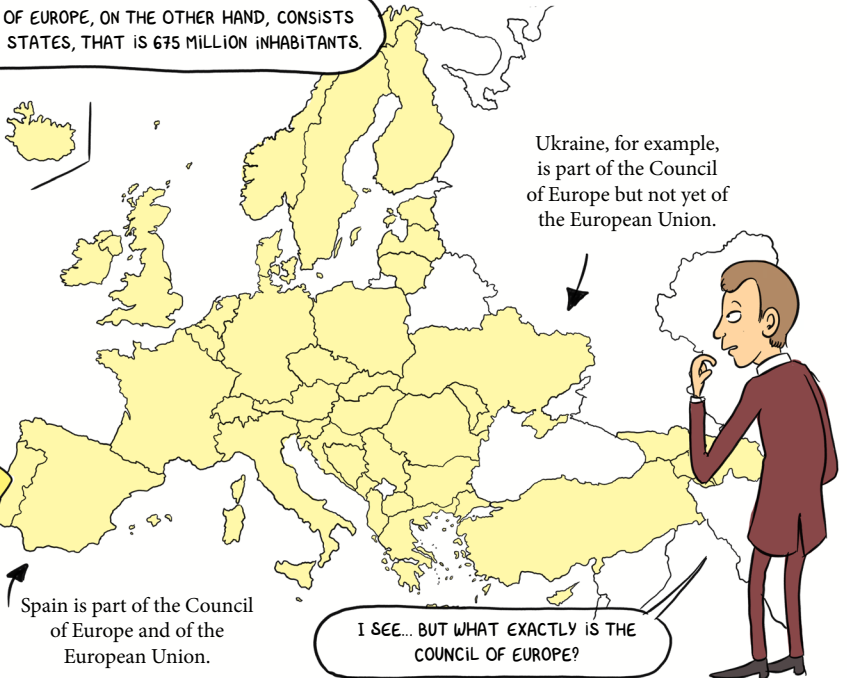




THERE ARE IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ORGANISATIONS. THE EUROPEAN UNION HAS 27 MEMBER STATES AND 350 MILLION INHABITANTS. ALL OF THESE MEMBER STATES ARE ALSO PART OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE.



THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, ON THE OTHER HAND, CONSISTS OF 46 MEMBER STATES, THAT IS 675 MILLION INHABITANTS.

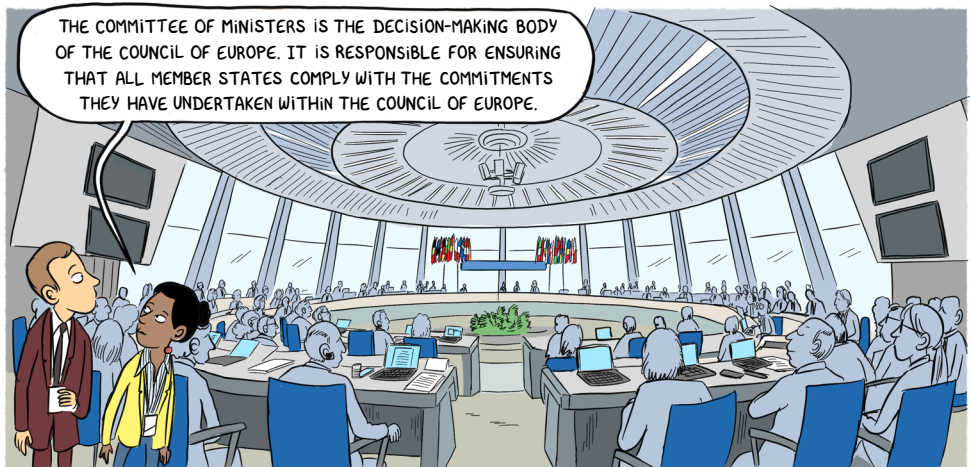
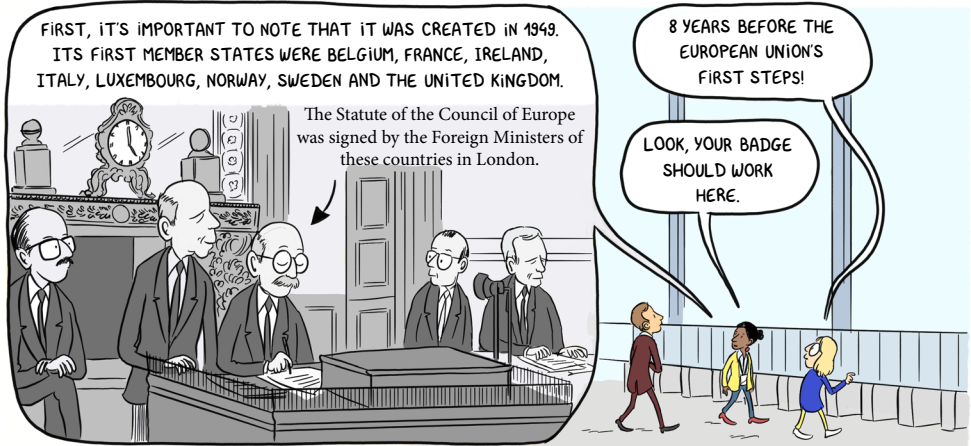


Ukraine, for example, is part of the Council of Europe but not yet of the European Union.

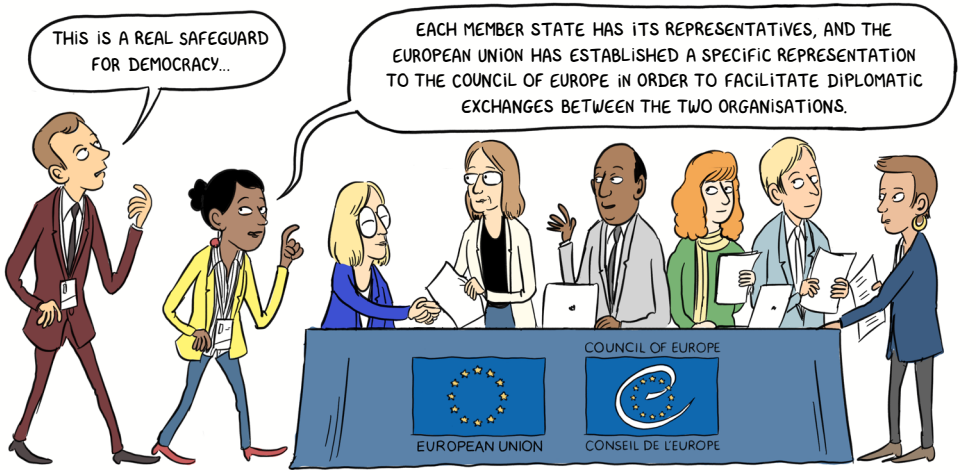
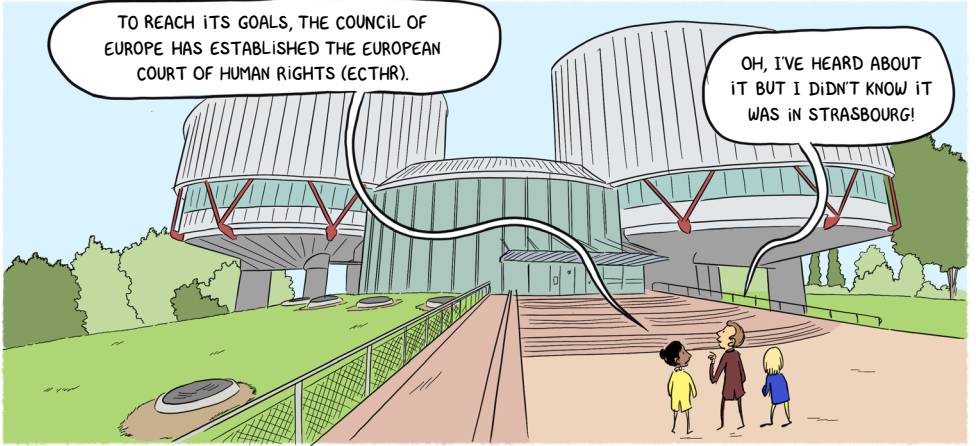
Spain is part of the Council of Europe and of the European Union.

I SEE... BUT WHAT EXACTLY IS THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE?






*For example: France has a population of 68 million and is represented by 18 delegates, while Austria, with a population of 9 million, is represented by 6 delegates.







THE EU DELEGATION TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IS WORKING TO STRENGTHEN THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANISATIONS, MAINLY TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT:



HUMAN RIGHTS



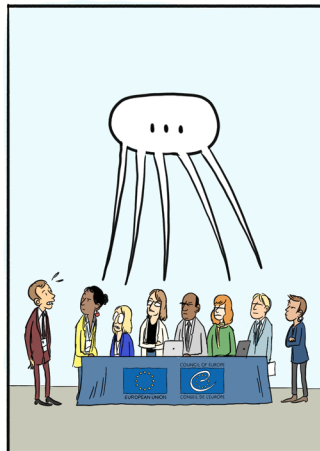
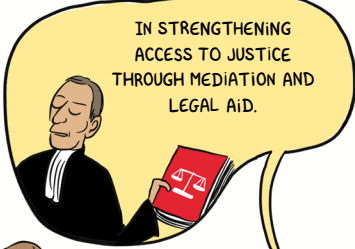
DEMOCRACY



THE RULE OF LAW



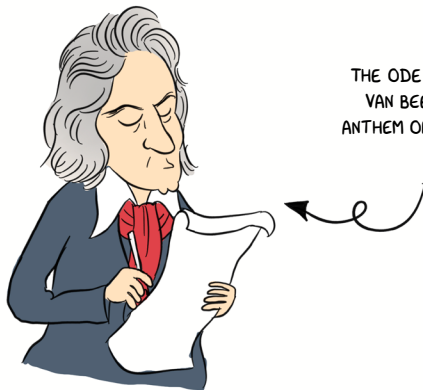
*The EU works hand in hand with the Council of Europe to support candidate countries and drive reforms that meet membership criteria, especially in these areas.



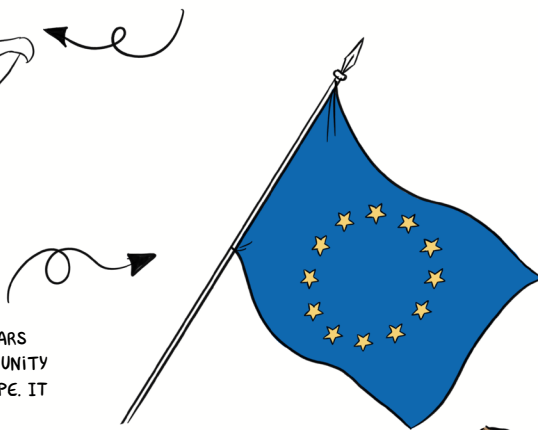


THE EUROPEAN SYMBOLS

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN UNION SHARE THE SAME ANTHEM AND THE SAME FLAG.



THE ODE TO JOY (A COMPOSITION OF LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN) HAS BEEN THE OFFICIAL ANTHEM OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE SINCE 1972 AND OF THE EU SINCE 1986.



THE FLAG WITH TWELVE STARS REPRESENTS SOLIDARITY AND UNITY AMONG THE PEOPLES OF EUROPE. IT WAS ADOPTED IN 1955.

